



SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 12, No. 4

OCTOBER, 1943

CHILDREN'S BIRD DAY

For some time, the St. Louis Bird Club has been working on a program of activities designed to stimulate children's interest in Conservation. This year the idea becomes a reality during Halloween week, Friday October 29, when Gerard Darrow, radio Quiz Kid, and Bert Harwell, California Representative of the National Audubon Society, head a program that promises more fun than window soaping for St. Louis children. The afternoon program at 1:15 P.M. in the Opera House of the Henry W. Kiel Municipal Auditorium will be limited to 3,600 children selected from the city's public schools. The evening program, scheduled for 8:15 P.M., also in the Opera House, will be free and open to the public. Everyone is urged to bring children. At both performances children attending will receive a gift set of colorful bird stamps by Richard Grossenheider, Club artist. Gerard Darrow, a junior John Kieran of nature knowledge, has agreed to match wits with St. Louis children on a bird quiz. Five questions about birds will be asked him at each performance. These will be chosen from questions submitted by our children with a prize of one dollar in war stamps for each of the ten winners whose names will be announced at both lectures. Entries must be postmarked on or before October 20th and mailed to Helen Einspanier, Chairman, Gerard Darrow Bird Quiz, 1607 Continental Building, St. Louis. Following the quiz, Bert Harwell will give us some of his outstanding bird imitations and a splendid all-color motion picture, "Bird Fun". This is one double feature you won't want to miss!

THE BRANCH PLAN

On the evening of July 28th, St. Louis Bird Club members met at the Jefferson Memorial and after transacting minor business, discussed the pros and cons of joining the National Audubon Society under the new Branch Plan. In spite of the extremely hot weather approximately 40 members were present and President Short read letters from another 20 members who were unable to attend but still wanted to express their opinions. All but one letter favored the plan and the vote of the attending members was unanimously in favor of affiliation. Essentially, this move will make the St. Louis Bird Club a branch of the National Audubon Society with all the resulting advantages that will accrue from such an association. Certainly the Club can take pride in the fact that the National Audubon Society gave us the opportunity of being the first club to affiliate under the Branch Plan. The status to Active Members paying one dollar per year will be unchanged while five dollar Sustaining Members will now also be members of the National Audubon Society and receive the Audubon Magazine. This should enable us to substantially increase our list of Sustaining Members and too, all five dollar members of the National Society in this area who are not now members of the St. Louis Bird Club will automatically become members of the Club. Through this affiliation, the Club will receive the services of Wayne Short, Midwestern Representative of the National Audubon Society. We in turn will lend our support to nation-wide programs for bird protection and legislation sponsored by the National Audubon Society.



Gerard Darrow

POST YOUR CHILDREN'S BIRD DAY POSTER NOW!



REMAINING LECTURES

We suggest that you clip out this list of the remaining lectures of the 1943-44 Natural History Screen Program if you have misplaced your lecture folder.

Oct. 29, Children's Bird Day with Quiz Kid Gerard Darrow of Chicago and Bert Harwell of Berkeley, California. **FREE.** Open to the public. Opera House, Henry W. Kiel Auditorium. 8:15 P.M. (afternoon program for special children's audience only, 1:15 P.M.).

Dec. 2, "Feathers, Furs, and Fins" by W. F. Kubichek, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago. **FREE.** Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

Jan. 6, "The Birth of the Land" by John H. Storer of Waltham, Mass. **FREE.** Open to the public. St. Louis University Auditorium. 8 P.M.

Jan. 19, Members' Night with Dr. George E. Hourn, George E. Moore, and John C. McGuire. For members only. Washington University Medical School Auditorium. 8 P.M.

Feb. 2, "Nature at Midnight" by Howard Cleaves of Staten Island, New York. **FREE.** Open to the public. St. Louis University Auditorium. 8 P.M.

March 27, "The Four Corners" by Alfred M. Bailey of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver. **FREE.** Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

April 27, "From Marsh to Mountain" by Cleveland P. Grant of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. **LOYALTY NIGHT.** Admission fifty cents. Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

May 16, "Yellowstone Romance" by Edna Maslowski of Cincinnati, Ohio. **FREE.** Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

The St. Louis Bird Club joins with bird clubs and conservation organizations all over the country in mourning the death of T. Gilbert Pearson, President-Emeritus of the National Audubon Society and one of the world's most widely known ornithologists.

Several Boy Scout Troops attended the Pettingill lecture, "Wildlife In Action", September 30th at Soldan High School. It was gratifying to see these Scouts attending the first lecture of the St. Louis Bird Club's 1943-44 Natural History Screen Program and we hope to see their numbers increase in our audiences as the season progresses.

ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 12, No. 4 October, 1943

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EDITORIAL OFFICE

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Rapidly changing conditions have affected your Editorial Staff as you will notice above. Marvin Beckmann, who served so faithfully as a member of the Staff, is now in the Army and Linus Hoffmeister will take over the important job of distribution of the Bulletin and Club posters. Since Ethel Wolfe is now serving as Club Secretary she will not be able to continue on the Editorial Staff and in her place we show Nell Menke who has all around duties as reporter, rewrite man, stenographer and Editorial sock darter.

"BIRD FUN"

Bert Harwell is preparing a special film for showing in St. Louis on Children's Bird Day. Arranged in sequence as a tour through varied terrain along the West Coast, the picture starts with exciting shots of birds of the California region including the famous Cliff Swallows at the Mission of Carmel. In rapid succession we will see close-ups of waterfowl . . . Mallards, Pintails, Canvas Backs and Bald Pates, followed by a switch to desert country for scenes of exotically colored flowers and birds of the desert. The film closes with scenic views of Yosemite where a chipmunk performs like a veteran trouper before Mr. Harwell's camera, and Grosbeaks, Tanagers, Redwings and Robins visit the feeding tray within a few feet of the photographer. These are just a few highlights picked at random from a color film packed with "Bird Fun" that is sure to please young and old alike.



The best bird "find" reported for the summer was the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, two of which were seen by Jimmy Jackson near Creve Coeur Lake on August 14.

Several reports were made to the Club on the large flocks of Swallows seen over the Municipal Opera this summer. Although these concentrations were seen in July and August, they were undoubtedly the gathering of many small groups of birds preparatory to migration. It is entirely possible that the lights of the Opera drew insects that made the area a good hunting ground. Nevertheless, it is not uncommon for large flocks of Swallows to begin gathering during July and August.

FIRST NIGHTER

A family of baby Screech Owls "watching the Fords go by" stole the show at the opening lecture of the St. Louis Bird Club's Natural History Screen Program on the evening of September 30th. However, the baby Owls were just a sample of the galaxy of stars who engagingly entertained an audience of 1,000 attending the showing of "Wildlife In Action", presented by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill Jr., of Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

Beginning and ending on the campus of Carleton College, the film stressed unusual mannerisms and outstanding characteristics of wildlife as observed and photographed by Dr. Pettingill at all seasons of the year. Mating antics of Western Grebes, Prairie Chickens, Coots and other waterfowl were clearly pointed out . . . pretense of injury on the part of an entire flock of Avocets with young nearby was a distinctive and colorful sequence . . . the fake ferocity of a puff adder trying to bluff his way out of a tight spot and finally deciding to play dead provided humor . . . and the peculiar, lopsided gait of the "sidewinder" Rattlesnake drew hisses from the audience and made him the sinister villain of the show. Dr. Pettingill's informal and entertaining comments on his pictures did much to give his listeners an evening that lived up to the standards set by his past performances and his film was certainly filled with both wildlife and action!

The Pettingill posters with designs by Raymond L. Herbert and posted by Bird Club members and friends, were undoubtedly a contributing factor to the splendid turnout at the Club's first lecture. You will soon receive the Poster announcing Children's Bird Day. We urge you to make a special effort to place your posters early and in the best possible location.

Mr. James Cunningham made the interesting discovery of the nest of a King Rail with twelve eggs near Boschertown in St. Charles County on June 16th.

American Egrets seen in small numbers at Dardenne Marsh during June were probably nesting in that vicinity. Additional American Egrets from the South started coming in during August and a large flock of 450 was seen on a flood pond near Creve Coeur on August 17th. An unusually dry season during July and August caused the floodwater to dry up rapidly and herons and shorebirds were not attracted in such numbers as they were in 1942.

MENABONI PRESENTATION

On Sunday, October 31st, the St. Louis Bird Club will present two original Menaboni bird paintings, the Tufted Titmouse and Bluebird, to Rockwoods Reservation to be kept on display at the Wildlife Exhibit. The Club will hold an all day meeting at Rockwoods with bird walks starting at 8:00 A.M., a picnic lunch, and the formal presentation of the paintings at two o'clock in the afternoon. In addition to prominent club members, Bert Harwell, who will be our lecturer on October 29th, will be present to help make this an occasion well worth attending. Those who saw the Menaboni exhibition last May at the St. Louis Public Library will realize how fortunate we are in having two of the best works of one of our finest contemporary bird artists close at hand for all to enjoy.

The Audubon Society of Missouri will hold a Regional Fall meeting in St. Louis on October 29th, 30th and 31st. The meeting will be in conjunction with the St. Louis Bird Club's busy October weekend beginning with Children's Bird Day on October 29th and concluding with the Menaboni presentation at Rockwoods Reservation on Sunday, October 31st.

We are listing Bird Club members in the Service with the hope that you will write us, bringing this list up to date if there are any omissions: Marvin Beckman, Everett Bennie, Martha Lucinda Bernet, Jim Barry Black, Arthur Christ, James Earl Comfort, J. F. Comfort, Richard P. Grossenheider, John H. Gerard, William Holzmark, William Jenner, C. Wickham Moore, George B. Oonk, George Renard, Ralph Sunderman, Martin Schweig, Joseph Vollmar, Sr., Joseph Vollmar, Jr., John J. Wolfe, John Carroll, Dr. James W. Bagby.



Who's Who?



With a view to bringing to the Midwest, and later on to the entire country, a lecture series comparable to that presented annually by the St. Louis Bird Club, the National Audubon Society has appointed Wayne Short its Midwestern Representative and Assistant to the Executive. Certainly this was a logical choice in view of the splendid program Wayne has helped to prepare for the Club each year, and we are happy to share our good fortune with other bird clubs and conservation organizations. The National Audubon Society has been most gracious in allowing Wayne to schedule his time so that he can attend all the Club's lectures during the coming season and complete the details of the program already established. In the future, the Club will continue to enjoy an outstanding lecture series and benefit from Wayne's experience as Club President and his close association with the National Audubon Society. Our warmest congratulations on a job well done and best wishes on a new venture that holds great promise.

Another St. Louis Bird Club member joins the staff of Audubon House with the appointment of Catherine Wood to the Film and Photo Department of the National Audubon Society. This is a particularly responsible position since the Society has one of the country's largest libraries of nature pictures. Kay has been a most loyal member, joining in every activity the Club offers and serving on many important committees. In fact, she has agreed to continue as a member of our Contact Committee for the rest of this season even though she will have to carry on from New York.

Because of increased responsibilities in other activities, Alberta Bolinger has resigned as Club Treasurer. Through her efforts, many improvements were made in the Club's bookkeeping system during her term of office and her banking experience was of great help in handling Club funds. Alberta has been a faithful and conscientious worker on all St. Louis Bird Club projects and her absence from the Board of Directors will be keenly felt.

The Contact Committee, with Mildred Reese as Chairman, recently handled the distribution of over twenty thousand St. Louis Bird Club Screen Program folders! This was a tremendous job and good results are already apparent in the form of numerous inquiries on the season's lectures and the enrollment of several new members.

New Sustaining Members from September first to September twenty-ninth: Dr. Hampton L. Carson. Changed to Sustaining: Miss Helen Kerr.

New Active Members from September first to September twenty-ninth: Esther E. Bradley, Richard C. Bradley, Charles W. Caspari, P. G. Collins, Grace Finch, M. H. Franklin, David T. Graham, Anne C. Heldenberg, Ellsworth N. Hemm, Herbert L. Houchin, William J. McBurney, Josephine Mathews, William Victor Niess, Gerald B. O'Rielly, Harry W. Riehl, Marie Schember, Miss Mary E. Stephenson, J. Vetter Sr., Mrs. J. Vetter, Sr.

Two of our new Active Members listed above, Mr. P. G. Collins and Mr. M. H. Franklin are residents of Limerick, Ireland. We welcome these good neighbors to the St. Louis Bird Club.

Anne Bayha, who has been serving as Secretary of the St. Louis Bird Club, has been switched to Treasurer to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Alberta Bolinger. Anne's working hours are at night so she will be able to adapt herself to banker's hours, a difficult feat for day workers. Since this left the secretarial office open, the Board invited Ethel Wolfe to take over as Secretary of the Club and she has accepted the position. We are very fortunate in having been able to fill these responsible offices with two such capable members.

The committee of judges for the Gerard Darrow Bird Quiz will consist of Club members Luther Ely Smith, John W. Thomsen, E. G. Cherbonnier, Lucien R. Fouke, and Mrs. Hildegard H. Cunliff.

Helen Einspanier is doing double duty for the time being as head of the Supply Committee and the Gerard Darrow Bird Quiz Committee.

The following members comprise this year's Membership Committee: Ethel Von Hahn, Chairman, Helen O'Moran, Helen Henke, and Marie Fischer.

Congratulations to Club Member Iva Leonard who became Mrs. William Ofred Jackson on August twenty-seventh.

CHILDREN'S BIRD DAY

QUIZ KID GERARD DARROW & BERT HARWELL

Bird Quiz by Gerard Darrow

"Bird Fun", all-color motion pictures, bird imitations
by Bert Harwell

October 29th, 8:15 P.M.

Opera House, Henry W. Kiel Municipal Auditorium

FREE

For adults as well as children.

Presented by the St. Louis Bird Club

You are invited.